

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MANAGERS  
OF THE  
STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

---

Transmitted to the Senate February 7, 1858.

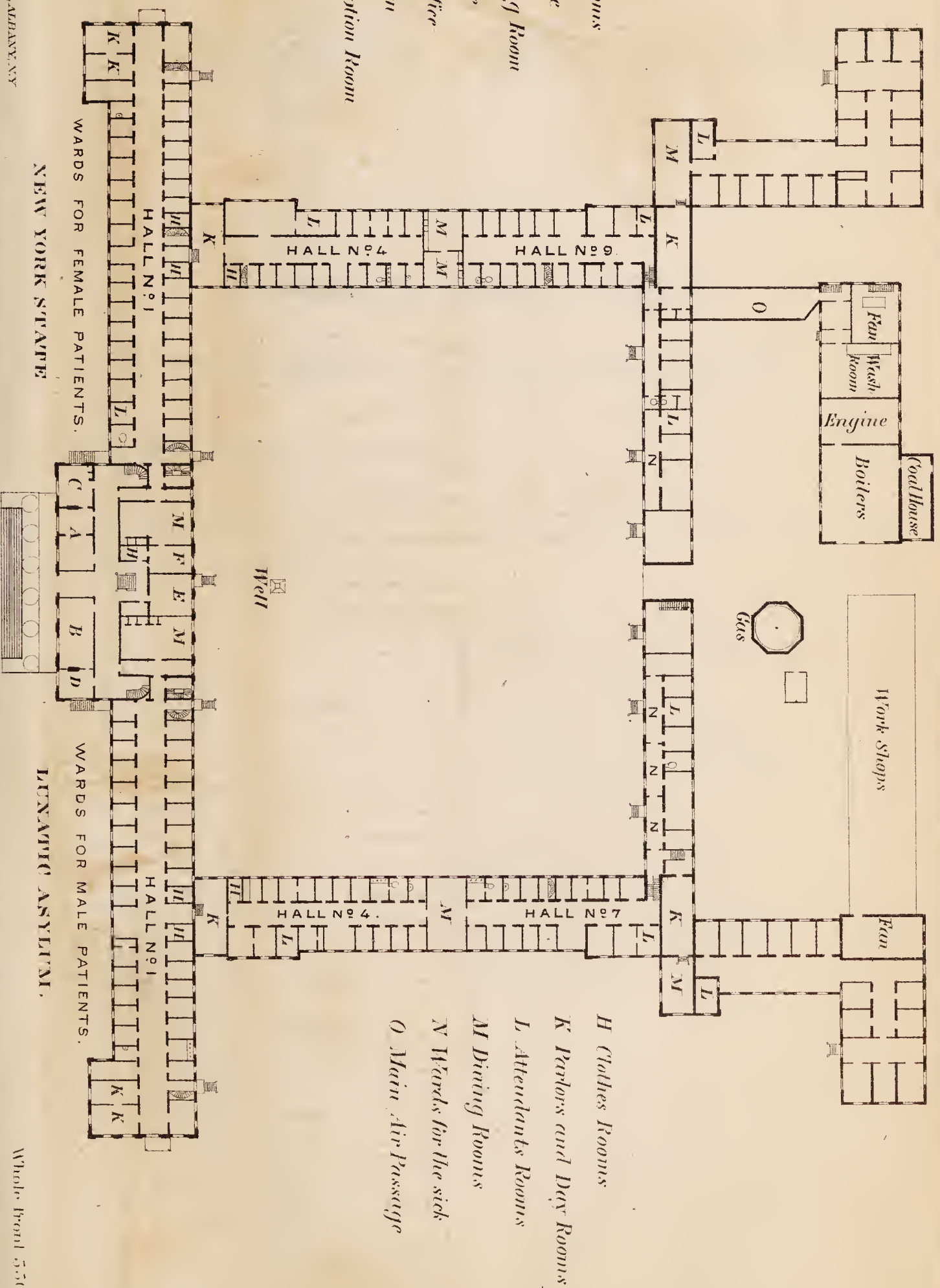
---

ALBANY:  
O. VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER TO THE LEGISLATURE,  
No. 407 Broadway.  
1858.



Engraved by H.B. Hall from a Photograph.

*A Reception Rooms*  
*B General Office*  
*C Officers Dining Room*  
*D Private Office*  
*E Stewards Office*  
*F Matrons Room*  
*G Female Reception Room*



NEW YORK STATE

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Whole front 550 feet.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30317708>

# STATE OF NEW YORK.

---

**No. 55.**

---

IN SENATE, FEB. 7, 1858.

---

## FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

UTICA, *February 9th*, 1858.

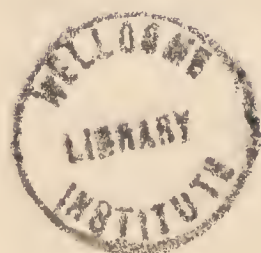
To the Hon. HENRY R. SELDEN,

*Lieut. Governor of the State of New-York:*

SIR—Herewith is submitted the annual report of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES A. MANN,  
SILAS D. CHILDS,  
S. NEWTON DEXTER,  
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,  
E. A. GRAHAM,  
DANIEL P. BISSELL,  
SPENCER KELLOGG,  
HOWARD TOWNSEND,  
WARD HUNT.



## OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

---

### *Managers.*

CHARLES. A. MANN, Utica.

SILAS D. CHILDS, “

E. A. GRAHAM, “

S. NEWTON DEXTER, Whitesboro.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, Auburn.

D. P. BISSELL, M.D., Utica.

HOWARD TOWNSEND, M.D., Albany.

SPENCER KELLOGG, Utica.

WARD HUNT, “

---

### *Resident Officers :*

JOHN P. GRAY, M.D., Superintendent and Physician.

E. H. VAN DEUSEN, M.D., First Assistant Physician.

J. M. CLEAVELAND, M.D., Second Assistant Physician.

LOUIS A. TOURTELLOT, M.D., Third Assistant Physician.

HORATIO N. DRYER, Steward.

---

SARAH A. STARR, Matron.

---

EDMUND A. WETMORE, Treasurer, Utica.



**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, for the year**  
**ending November 30, 1857.**

The Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum respectfully submit to the Legislature the following

**REPORT.**

The report of the superintendent, herewith submitted, is referred to for a statement in detail, of the operations of the asylum, during the last year.

It affords, we think, satisfactory evidence of the continued and increasing usefulness of the institution, and is calculated to awaken new interest in the subject of the proper care of all the insane of the State.

The usual statistical table shows that two hundred and thirty-five patients have been received during the year; that the whole number who have been under treatment is six hundred and ninety-six; that ninety-five have been discharged "recovered;" twenty-five discharged "improved;" eighty-three "unimproved," and ten "not insane," and that thirty-two have died, leaving four hundred and fifty-one patients in the asylum at the end of the year.

It appears also, by another table, that five thousand and sixty-five patients have been received since the opening of the asylum on the 16th of January, 1843; that four thousand six hundred and fourteen have been discharged, of which number two thousand one hundred and twelve had recovered, seven hundred and sixty-eight were improved, and one thousand and ninety-five were unimproved; that thirty-four were not insane, and that six hundred and five have died.

We solicit attention to the remarks of the superintendent made in connection with these, and the other statistical tables of his report, believing them to be interesting and important.

On the 30th of November, Dr. John B. Chapin resigned the position of assistant physician. The Board received his resignation with regret, as Dr. Chapin was an accomplished physician, and filled the office he held with credit and usefulness. The institution has been fortunate in securing in his place the services of Dr. Joseph M. Cleaveland, a gentleman bringing to his duties an experience of four years in the New-York Hospital. Miss Elizabeth Howard resigned the position of matron on the first of October last, and Miss Sarah A. Starr was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The annual summary report of the treasurer is also herewith submitted. It will be seen that the ordinary receipts of the institution, on account of patients, have been sufficient to meet all its ordinary expenses, and that at the close of the year there was a balance in the treasury, on this account, of \$19,596.39, the greater part of which however would be required to meet large demands becoming due in the month of December. It also appeared by this report that the asylum has received \$58,000, being the amount of the appropriation of 1857 for warming and ventilating the building by steam, and for repairs, improvements, and erections connected therewith; that \$24,240.96 of that appropriation was used to pay the balance due the treasurer on the first of December, 1856; that the sum of \$23,392.45 has been expended during the past year in paying some previous indebtedness, and in carrying on the work; and that a balance of \$10,466.59 remained in the treasury on the 1st of December, 1857.

In consequence of the fires which occurred in July last, (and which will be hereinafter mentioned) it became necessary to postpone the completion of the improvements and buildings for which the appropriation of \$58,000 was designed, and to use the balance just stated in rebuilding the central edifice and barn, which were destroyed by those fires. The amount of that appropriation was inserted in the supply bill of 1856, which bill

however (as is known) was not acted upon by the Legislature. For a full statement in reference to the objects of that appropriation, and the estimates and reasons upon which it was asked, we refer to our reports presented in 1856 and 1857.

Such full accounts of the alterations, additions and improvements, connected with heating and ventilating the buildings by steam, have been given in our previous reports, that it is unnecessary again to call the attention of the Legislature to the subject in detail. Every year of experience strengthens our convictions of the wisdom of the policy which dictated the plan that has been pursued; and we are confident that few, if any, of the appropriations made by the generosity and humanity of the people of this State for the support and improvement of their charitable institutions, have been more certainly and extensively useful and beneficent in their results, than the appropriations for warming and ventilating the buildings of this institution, and for the connected changes and improvements. Any remarks which we might make upon this subject, could only be substantially a repetition of what is said by the superintendent in his report."

In our last annual report we stated that "the fan and fan-house for the north wings, the additional wards for the most disturbed class of patients, the machine shops, the greater part of the work of the cross rear wing, and some important repairs all mentioned in our last report, (1856,) and all necessary to the completion of the plan in progress, have not yet been commenced.

Since that time the building for machine shops, which is of brick, with stone foundation and slate roof, 115 feet in length, twenty-eight feet in width and one story in height, has been erected; a large portion of the work in the cross rear wing (affording convenient hospital arrangements,) has been completed, as has also the greater part of the most important repairs. The foundation of the fan-house for the north wing, and of the additional ward for the disturbed classes of patients, connected with those wings, were laid, and the walls carried up to the water table when the fires of July took place, and made it neces-

sary to suspend the work. It is intended to resume and complete it next season.

The fires to which allusion has been made occurred on the 14th and 18th of July. A few minutes after seven o'clock in the morning of the former day, smoke and flames were seen issuing from the cupola of the front central building. When the attic was reached, it was found that the air trunk, the partitions, the stair-case, and the surrounding timbers were so extensively involved in the work of destruction; the smoke was so dense, and the difficulty of reaching that portion of the building with water, was so great, that all hopes of extinguishing the fire at that point were abandoned, and the exertions of the officers were at once directed to removing the fixtures, furniture, libraries, records and stores in the centre, preventing the spread of the flames to the wings, and making preparations to save and protect the patients.

Fortunately the day was still though excessively hot. The citizens of Utica with the fire and military companies, and multitudes from the surrounding country, with fire companies from the neighboring villages, were almost immediately upon the ground, and these were very soon succeeded by the firemen and others from Rome, Herkimer and Little Falls. Every proper effort was to made to extinguish or at least to stay the progress of the fire in the main building, but without any visible effect; and in the course of a few hours the whole interior of that great structure was a mass of ruins, leaving standing only the outer walls, which of course were considerably injured. The protection against the spread of fire from the centre to the wings was very imperfect, and it was evident from the first, that the principal efforts must be directed to the points of their connection.

The greatest danger was at the connection with the south wing, which contains the wards for the female patients. Notwithstanding the very great exertions of the firemen, and of all who were co-operating with them, the flames advanced so far into the attic of that wing as to destroy about ninety feet in length of its roof, and a portion of the attic itself, and of course to do great damage to the rooms, halls and stair-cases below.

After most devoted and laborious effort, the fire in that direction was extinguished, and all but the center, which was already in ruins, was safe. But little damage, comparatively, was suffered in the north wing.

At the commencement of the fire, the assistant physicians, under the direction of the superintendent, took charge of the patients in their respective departments. The necessary attendants were placed under their order and control. Dr. Chapin, who was effectually aided by Dr. Tourtellot, had the immediate charge of the north wing, in which are the male wards. He is entitled to great credit for the order and quiet which he preserved during the trying scenes of the day, throughout his department. It was not deemed necessary to remove one of his patients, and the whole two hundred and thirty retired at night without injury to any one of their number.

The danger of the spread of the fire in the south wing was so imminent that prudence required the early removal of the female patients in the front wing. This was effected under the direction and superintendence of Dr. Van Deusen, of whom, in regard to this matter, it is enough to say that, amidst all the excitement and confusion which existed, he caused 160 of the number in his charge to be safely removed to a grove upon the asylum farm, and to be returned to their apartments without an accident, and arranged for the remaining 65 within the building, and at night had the whole number safely and properly cared for. It is deemed right thus to speak of the assistant physicians, to whom the public, and especially the relatives and friends of the patients, are greatly indebted for the safety of the unfortunate subjects of our charge.

To the mayor and authorities of the city—to Mr. Priest, superintendent of the Central, and to Mr. Dutton of the Rome and Watertown railroad—to the fire and military companies—to the officers of public and private institutions—to the citizens of all classes—to the firemen from abroad, and for many kind and grateful offers of aid from other cities, we have heretofore made a public tender of our thanks.

We should be guilty of injustice if we did not, in this report to the Legislature, acknowledge especially our obligations to the superintendent. Almost the whole responsibility of the day was thrown upon him. Not only his assistant and subordinate officers and attendants, but the fire and military companies, the police force and indeed all who were upon the ground looked to him for advice and instruction. The demands upon his attention were incessant from the time the fire was discovered until the morning of the next day. His presence of mind, his judicious orders, his promptness, activity and energy were mainly instrumental in preventing an extension of the calamity. His labors here in consequence of the fire were very severe, and must so continue until the work of reconstruction and repairs is completed.

We cordially unite in all that he says in his report respecting the conduct of the subordinate officers, and attendants and assistants.

The fact that not one failed in the performance of duty, and that all cheerfully submitted to much personal inconvenience, and to greatly increased labor and responsibility, is as creditable to them as it is gratifying to us.

We beg to call attention to the superintendent's remarks upon the subject of the important aid derived from the use of steam in the extinguishment of the fire and preventing it from extending into the wings. He was much indebted in this matter to Mr. Joseph Graham, the engineer by whose skill and good judgment the object sought was readily attained.

It gives the managers sincere pleasure to be able to state, that notwithstanding the numerous disadvantages under which the asylum has labored in consequence of the fire, that its ordinary operations have not been seriously interrupted. No patients were removed, and the applications for new admissions continued as usual.

The confidence thus manifested in the management of the institution after so great a calamity, and so terrible a danger, was very grateful to all its officers.

While we had reason for gratitude in the safety of all the inmates of the asylum, we were called upon to mourn the death of two of our fellow citizens—Doctor Lauren F. Rose and Mr. William Cessford, both of whom were caught and killed by the falling timbers of the centre building. Doctor Rose fell in the manly and benevolent performance of self-appointed duty. He was a worthy and liberal gentleman and a skillful and high-minded physician, and often manifested an earnest interest in the welfare of the patients of the institution. He left a wife and young children in a dependent and destitute condition. Mr. Cessford was an estimable young man and a member of one of the fire companies of the city, and when killed was faithfully and courageously engaged in endeavoring to prevent the extension of the fire.

In the afternoon of the 18th of July a fire was discovered bursting through the roof of the asylum barn, which was a stone building, one hundred feet long and forty-seven feet in width. There was in it a quantity of hay and straw. The fire spread with great rapidity and the whole interior was soon destroyed. The front wall was injured so that it was necessary to take down a portion of it. The back wall and one end wall were also considerably injured.

All the valuable articles in the barn, except the hay, were saved.

We have omitted to mention that the records of the institution, the libraries and the furniture of the center building, (except the furniture in the fourth story and chapel, and a part in the third story, and except also the mattresses and blankets destroyed in combating the fire) were likewise saved.

During the progress of the fire in the barn, the superintendent received evidence that it was set by an inmate of the asylum, named William Spiers, whom he caused to be immediately arrested. The evidence was conclusive, and Spiers confessed that he set fire to both the barn and the center building. The fire in the barn was kindled in the loft, and that in the asylum was kindled in the large foul air flue leading from the north wings,

where it passed through the main attic over the ceiling of the chapel to the cupola. There was a door entrance to the flue, through which he passed, and set fire to a temporary wooden box within, which was intended to connect the ventilation of the chapel with that flue. The testimony taken by the judge who committed Spiers, does not enable us to say with certainty by what means he gained access to the attic. It is probable that in some way he obtained possession of keys. Spiers was admitted to the asylum as a patient in January, 1850. He was sent from the city of New-York by order of a court of oyer and terminer, in which he was arraigned on a charge of arson. He escaped trial upon the plea of insanity. He remained a patient until February, 1856, when he was discharged by order of a justice of the supreme court. During almost the whole of this long period he was industrious, cheerful and useful, and continually improved under moral and intellectual training and instruction, and gave no evidence of being in any respect a dangerous person. After his discharge (with the exception of the month of September, 1856, when he was absent on a visit, as is supposed, to a relative) he remained in the employment of the asylum, working the greater part of the time in a dining room, and in the printing office. He was also employed as a nurse.

He was examined before Mr. Justice Bacon, of the supreme court, on Monday the 20th of July, and was by him committed for trial. He was indicted, and the district attorney was ready to try him at the court of oyer and terminer, in October last, but the trial was postponed upon the application of Spiers' counsel, founded upon an affidavit of the absence of material witnesses. The next court of oyer and terminer in Oneida county will sit in March next; whether the trial will take place at that time or not we are unable to say. In the mean time we deem it to be our duty to refrain from expressing any opinion upon the question of the sanity of Spiers, and from saying any thing which might lead to prejudices for or against him.

On the 17th of July, His Excellency Governor King visited the asylum upon the invitation of the managers; and after a full examination and consultation expressed the opinion that it was

the duty of the managers to proceed at once to rebuild and repair the central edifice and the injured portion of the south wing. The Governor has brought this subject to the notice of the Legislature in his annual message, and has therein stated the views which he entertained, and how far the managers have acted under his authority. He requested that an account of the fire should be sent to him. It was given in the form of a letter which he communicated to the Legislature with his message.

We cannot better express the reasons which governed us in acting under the advice and authority of the Executive, in proceeding immediately with the work of rebuilding and repairing, than in the words of a resolution which was passed by the board on the 3d of August, (the fact of the visit and the expression of the opinion of the Governor having first been entered on their records,) and which resolution was as follows :

“ Whereas, the front central building of the asylum was destroyed by fire on the 14th of July last, as has heretofore been stated in the managers’ records; and whereas said building contained the provision store rooms for the whole institution, the kitchen for the two front wings, in which are about two hundred and twenty patients, with their attendants and servants; the kitchen for the center building itself, and the offices pertaining to the store and kitchen departments; and contained also the offices of the superintendent, and the assistant physicians, the apothecary and the steward; the rooms for the reception of patients and visitors, the apartments for the family of the superintendent, and for the assistant physicians, and the steward and matron; the store rooms for the bedding and the unmade clothing of the asylum; several important lodging rooms, the chapel, and the six dining rooms for the six halls of the front wings :

And whereas the orders for the care of the patients, and for the organization and the government of the whole house must necessarily issue from the office of the superintendent, and communication with it is required during every hour of the day :

And whereas by being deprived of the rooms, offices and accommodations herein mentioned, the comfort and proper treat-

ment of the patients are seriously interfered with, the labor of all the attendants and assistants greatly increased; so much additional labor, anxiety and responsibility imposed upon the superintendent and his assistants as to render the satisfactory performance of their usual duties impossible; the daily expenses of the institution also considerably increased, and the difficulties of carrying it on, in all respects, greatly aggravated :

And whereas, if the repairs and rebuilding of the said central edifice should be delayed until another season, the walls left standing would be subject to dilapidation, and might become useless; and the difficulties mentioned would become so embarrassing and oppressive, especially during the winter, that probably it would be necessary to discharge large numbers of patients, and the institution, in all its departments would suffer material injury and loss; and the managers believing that the public interests connected with the institution, require that the evils alluded to should be remedied as speedily as possible, and having confidence that what we shall do in the premises will be approved of by the Legislature; therefore

*Resolved*, That it is the duty of this board to proceed immediately to repair and rebuild the said central edifice, to such an extent as may be necessary to protect the buildings from further dilapidation or other injury, and provide therein such accommodations as may be required to carry on the operations of the house, during the ensuing fall and winter, in such manner as to secure, as far as may be, the proper care of the patients, to relieve the superintendent and officers from excessive labor, and to prevent loss and general disorganization."

At the same time the board passed a resolution that the barn should be re-built, as the same was absolutely necessary for keeping the horses and cattle, and for storing the hay and vegetables during the winter, the vegetable store rooms being in the cellar of the barn.

The work was commenced without any delay, and by the 23d of October all the interior walls were up, and the great roof was covered. The repairs of the south wing have been com-

pleted, the superintendent's and steward's offices are nearly finished, the dining rooms are in a state of forwardness, the floors in many rooms have been laid, and the greater part of the plastering is near completion. The center building is one hundred and twenty feet long, and seventy-six feet deep. Its front and rear walls are seventy feet, and the middle interior walls eighty-seven feet in height. In re-building this, and in repairing the wing, there have been used 1,073,000 bricks, 478 tons of rough stone, and 2,197 feet of dressed stone. These will be required more than 10,000 yards of plastering, and we have laid 15,860 feet of tin roofing. The work is all of a plain character, but intended to be substantial and appropriate, and especial pains have been taken to guard against danger from fire, and particularly at the points of connection between the center and the wings. Before the fire the communications between them were by 26 windows and doors. The openings are now reduced to nine, and they are through brick arched ways, which are to be guarded by iron slides. A particular description of the building is not attempted, because it would be too long for this report, and could not be made intelligible without accompanying plans.

The barn has been re-built and is occupied as usual.

The whole amount of expense incurred up to the first of December, was \$41,005.51, and the estimate for completing the whole work was (in addition) \$26,736.43, making in all, for re-building the center and the barn, and repairing the wing, including the work and materials for heating and ventilation, and the large water tanks, and for replacing the furniture and mattresses and blankets destroyed by the fire, the sum of \$68,741.94, for which we respectfully ask an early appropriation. The estimates have been made with care and particularity, and have been kept within the closest limits. The work cannot be accomplished for a less sum than has been named.

We have been compelled to use the sum which remained of the appropriation of 1857, and which on the first of December, according to the treasurer's report, was \$10,466.59. We were also obliged to authorize the treasurer to draw upon the ordinary

funds of the institution. Notwithstanding a resort to these two funds, bills for materials, to a large amount, remain unpaid. The bank in which the treasurer keeps his account, will make such advances as are absolutely necessary during the winter.

The calamitous event, of which we have thus given an account, illustrates the importance of greater care than is usual in our country, in the construction of public buildings, and especially of those which are designed for the occupation of large numbers of persons, who are rendered helpless by mental or bodily disease. Such buildings in Europe are now generally made fire-proof. In erecting them here, it ought, at least, to be required that all interior walls should be of brick, and of very substantial character, and wherever it is possible, that they should extend to the roof; that stairs should be of iron leading through brick stair-ways, and that all connections between different parts of the buildings should be so arranged and guarded as to prevent the spread of fire from one part to another. It is hoped that the time is not far distant when public opinion will justify the expense of making such structures entirely fire-proof, not only as a matter of safety but as demanded by a wise economy.

An occasion is also furnished for repeating what has often been said in reports from this institution, and by superintendents of asylums throughout the United States, that no such buildings should be erected without a certainty of an abundant supply of water. The water for this asylum, (except for table and culinary purposes,) is forced by a pump from one of the levels of the Chenango canal. That source is too distant to be reached by engines, and in case of fire, the principal dependance must be upon the tanks in the attics, which of course, are difficult of access for such a purpose, and to which engine hose cannot be attached. It was only after the firemen were able to extend the hose to the Erie canal, a distance of about half a mile, that the fire in the roof and attic of the wing was successfully combatted. A resort to so distant a source could not have been had in the night or in case of a wind, in time to have been of any avail. All such disadvantages should be avoided in selecting a site for an asylum or hospital. In addition to all proper interior

arrangements for the extinguishment of fire, there should be a near source of supply, and sufficiency for throwing large quantities of water upon the roofs and the exterior openings.

Having in view the unfortunate origin of this fire, (without however expressing or implying any opinion respecting the mental condition of Spiers,) we desire once more to call the attention of the Legislature to the subject of further provision for the custody and treatment of "insane convicts" and lunatics of the "criminal class." It will be seen by reference to the report of the superintendent, that during a period of eight years, sixty-seven convicts were sent to the asylum from the State prisons, of which number thirty-nine were convicted of crimes of violence; and that seven of these were notorious "house-breakers," and feigned disease to escape punishment. It also appears that during the last fifteen years eighty-seven "criminals and dangerous lunatics" have been sent to the institution by the order of judges and courts; and of these twenty-two had committed murder, and fourteen had been guilty of arson; (of course they were not deemed to be legally guilty of those crimes, having been saved from trial, or acquitted on the ground of insanity.) These facts show in a striking light the dangers to which such an institution as this is constantly exposed. When it is remembered that these convicts and criminals are sent here, *to be treated for disease, and if possible to be cured*, and that shackles and rigid confinement are never permitted, and cannot be resorted to without changing the character of the institution from an asylum to a prison, there seems to us cause for congratulation and gratitude that serious calamities by fire and otherwise have not heretofore overtaken us.

Happily, provision has lately been made, by law, for the proper care of insane convicts, in a building now in the course of erection at the Auburn State prison. We unite with the superintendent in the expression of a hope that "this is a step in the direction of an entire separation of the various criminal classes from the ordinary insane."

In the month of May last the managers of this asylum, in common with their fellow-citizens at large, were called upon to

mourn the death of the Hon. Joshua A. Spencer, who had but lately been appointed one of their number. The character and merits of that distinguished man are too well known to require any eulogy from us. The strong sympathy which he always manifested with human suffering and want wherever they appeared, and the benevolent zeal with which he devoted himself to their alleviation, rendered him a very valuable member of a board having charge of such an institution as this. His loss, in the midst of his usefulness, is deeply deplored.

CHAS. A. MANN,  
SILAS D. CHILDS,  
E. A. GRAHAM,  
D. P. BISSELL,  
SPENCER KELLOGG,  
S. NEWTON DEXTER,  
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,  
HOWARD TOWNSEND,  
WARD HUNT.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

---

*To the Manager of the State Lunatic Asylum :*

The treasurer of the asylum respectfully submits the following summary of his receipts and payments, for the year ending November 30th, 1857.

### *General Account.*

*Receipts.*—From December 1, 1856, to December 1, 1857 :

By balance from last amount,.....	\$12,280 34
From sundry counties for the support of patients,	57,283 82
“ sundry private patients,.....	29,453 83
“ the State Treasurer, for officer's salaries,....	6,665 25
“ “ “ for insane convicts,.....	6,713 98
“ “ “ for Mark Jack, an Indian	159 49
“ the steward, for hides, pelts, old iron, &c., sold	2,324 46
“ T. B. McGee, over-payment returned,.....	1 75
“ C. McKinney & Co., advances on freight of coal returned,.....	101 08
	<hr/>
	\$114,984 00
	<hr/>

*Payments.*—From December 1, 1856, to December 1, 1857 :

For provisions and household stores,.....	\$35,423 03
“ furniture,.....	4,433 15
“ attendants, assistants and labor,.....	16,725 66
“ fuel and lights,.....	13,029 92
“ miscellaneous expenses,.....	591 21
“ steward's petty expenses,.....	700 00

For books, stationery, binding, &c., . . . . .	480 15
“ officers’ salaries, . . . . .	6,400 00
“ medicines and medical supplies, . . . . .	1,334 55
“ additions, alterations and repairs, . . . . .	4,286 96
“ farm, barn, garden and grounds, . . . . .	5,203 22
“ clothing of patients, (advances), . . . . .	6,051 83
“ patients miscellaneous expenses, . . . . .	593 49
“ sundry patients, refunded on their discharge, .	134 44
“ balance in the treasury (to new acc’t), . . . . .	19,596 39
	<hr/>
	\$114,984 00
	<hr/>

*Account for warming and ventilating the buildings by steam, and repairs, improvements and erections connected therewith.*

## RECEIPTS.

1857.

March 7. By draft on State Treasurer, on account of appropriation of \$58,000, . . . . .	\$14,500 00
April 1. By draft on State Treasurer, on account of appropriation of \$58,000, . . . . .	14,500 00
June 15. By draft on State Treasurer, on account of appropriation of \$58,000, . . . . .	9,000 00
July 28. By draft on State Treasurer, on account of appropriation of \$58,000, . . . . .	10,000 00
Aug. 31. By draft on State Treasurer, on account, of appropriation of \$58,000, . . . . .	10,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$58,000 00
	<hr/>

## PAYMENTS.

April 1, 1857. Balance due the treasurer, Decem- ber 1, 1856, . . . . .	\$24,240 96
From Dec. 1, 1856, to Dec. 1, 1857. Cash for ma- terials and work, including indebtedness for boiler and piping, &c., according to report in detail, . . . . .	23,392 45
Balance to new account, . . . . .	10,466 59
	<hr/>
	\$58,000 00
	<hr/>

*Account for re-building and repairing the center building, barn and part of the south wing, destroyed by fire.*

July 14, 1857, to Dec. 1, 1857. To cash for materials, work, &c., according to report in

detail, ..... \$25,236 43

EDMUND A. WETMORE, *Treasurer.*



## FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NEW-YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOV. 30, 1857.

*To the Board of Managers of the Asylum :*

GENTLEMEN :—In compliance with the requirements of the act organizing the institution, the following report of its operations during the past year is respectfully submitted.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients at the commencement of the year,.....	231	230	461
Received during the year,.....	129	106	235
Whole number treated,....	<u>360</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>696</u>
Daily average under treatment,.....			463
Ordinary capacity of the house,.....			440
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged, recovered,.....	41	54	95
do improved,.....	13	12	25
do unimproved,.....	36	47	83
Not insane,.....	8	2	10
Died,.....	24	8	32
Whole number discharged,.....	<u>122</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>245</u>
Remaining Nov. 30th, 1857,.....	<u>238</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>451</u>

The history of the institution during the past year is a record of mingled prosperity and misfortune. In all that pertains to the benevolent ends for which it was erected, the reception, care and cure of the insane, it has attained the degree of usefulness which has marked its operations in former years.

Of the two hundred and thirty-five patients admitted, seventy-three were received after the calamitous fire of July 14th; the

first of this number early in the week immediately following its occurrence. The different portions of the State which have been represented in the asylum, correspond very nearly with those of previous years. As would naturally be expected, the larger number are received from points most accessible, and from places where the residence of former patients has made the institution, its purposes and advantages most widely known. It is also gratifying to be able to record a decided improvement in the condition of patients at the time of their admission. Only a few had been bled and reduced by a depressing course of treatment, and nearly all, (the exceptions being a few among those transferred directly from the county houses,) gave evidence of careful and humane treatment.

All who have been admitted, it will be observed, were residents of this State, with one exception, that of a male patient from Michigan, who was brought to the institution so feeble and exhausted by continued mental excitement and his long and fatiguing journey that he could not be refused. It may here be remarked that applications from other States, especially from those at the west, which are yet unprovided with asylums of their own, continue to be very frequent. By declining to receive all these, and by exercising a careful discrimination, we have been able to provide for all proper cases, for whom application has been made by the county officers.

Of those admitted during the past year one hundred and ninety-nine were received for the first time; twenty-four were cases of second, seven of third, and five of fourth admission. Of the re-admissions twenty were originally cases of acute mental disease, who were discharged recovered, the remainder were of those who had improved, and for a time been able to remain with their friends. From these facts we are led to infer that while insanity, when early and properly treated, is acknowledged to be as curable as most of the graver diseases incident to human life, the probability of second and repeated attacks, is no greater.

An idea very generally prevails that an attack of mental disease is almost necessarily to be repeated, and this is perhaps one reason

of the sometimes amusing but often very painful surveillance to which recovered patients are frequently subjected.

The number of those discharged, recovered, during the past year, is not quite as large, but compares very favorably with the reports of previous years. The percentage of recoveries on the average population of the house, it will be observed by reference to the annexed table is 20.52 and 40.42 per cent. on the number of admissions.

TABLE

*Showing the percentage of recoveries on the average population, and admission of each year.*

YEAR.	ON AVERAGE POPULATION.			ON ADMISSIONS.		
	Average population.	Recovered.	Percentage.	Admitted.	Recovered.	Percentage.
1843..	109	53	48.62	276	53	19.20
1844..	236	132	55.93	275	132	48.80
1845..	265	135	50.94	293	135	46.07
1846..	283	133	46.99	237	133	39.46
1847..	415	187	45.06	428	187	43.69
1848..	474	174	36.70	405	174	42.96
1849..	454	203	44.71	362	203	56.07
1850..	433	171	39.49	367	171	46.59
1851..	440	112	23.45	366	112	30.60
1852..	441	156	35.37	390	156	40.00
1853..	423	169	39.95	424	169	39.85
1854..	444	164	37.16	390	164	42.05
1855..	467	128	27.40	275	128	46.54
1856..	454	100	22.24	242	100	41.73
1857..	463	95	20.52	235	95	40.42

Thirteen males and twelve females have been discharged "improved." This term is used to signify the attainment in these cases, of a degree of health, or the removal from the mind of dangerous and unpleasant delusions, and to indicate a state of improvement effected in part by direct treatment and in part by the habits of self-control formed in the asylum, which often enable the patient to renew a participation in the enjoyment of the pleasures of home, and still more frequently to take also an active part in some useful labor. While failing to secure entire restoration, the attainment of this degree of improvement in the

unfortunate patient, the amelioration of his unhappy condition, so as to enable him to participate, in part even, in the joys and duties of life, must in many cases be the very pleasant and by no means unprofitable office of every institution for the insane. One gentleman recently discharged thus improved, is receiving a good salary as teacher of languages in a seminary, and another is book-keeper in a large mercantile establishment. Many are able to earn their own livelihood, and of the females nearly all are well enough to resume the discharge of their accustomed household duties.

The number of those discharged "unimproved," is again very large. Of these many had passed from the acute into the chronic stages of insanity, and though unimproved and unimproving in mind, had nevertheless been greatly benefited by their residence in the asylum. Their health had been sustained, they had been directed in the formation of proper habits, and thus been prevented from sinking into that state of helplessness and inattention to personal cleanliness, into which the insane, when neglected, so rapidly fall; and though their minds may be permanently impaired, the result is not altogether unfortunate, inasmuch as they are capable, in many instances, of conducting themselves with propriety, and sometimes become, in a measure, useful to their friends.

Of the eighty-three discharged as unimproved, thirty-eight returned to their families. Many of these under prolonged treatment, would undoubtedly have recovered, and others greatly improved. Fifteen were removed by public officers, to the manifest detriment of the patient, and in opposition to our advice and wishes. Forty-three of the eighty-three, when admitted, were hopelessly and incurably insane, either from long neglect previous to admission, or by reason of a complication of their mental disease with epilepsy or general paralysis.

Although so much has been written on the danger of delay in cases of insanity, and notwithstanding the subject is so frequently alluded to in the reports of the medical officers of the numerous institutions in our country, the friends of such unfortunates, as well as the public officers whose duty it is to provide for them,

seem very slow in learning the important lesson that a regard for safety and economy demands prompt and proper treatment. Indeed many people, intelligent and thoughtful as to most other things, who would not allow a cold or an attack of sick headache to be neglected, will, in their own families, and in the circle of their immediate friends, trust for months to the hope of spontaneous cure, or resort to remedies of the most doubtful propriety in this most grave of all diseases. And officers who would scorn the slightest imputation of inattention and short-coming in the discharge of their duties, will neglect, or what is still worse, place in the county receptacles, recent cases, which under proper management and care, would recover in a few months, but if retained there must almost inevitably sink into incurability and become a permanent charge to the public.

The more we have become acquainted with these county receptacles the more thoroughly are we convinced not only of the inhumanity of the policy allowing of such a disposition of deeply afflicted human beings, but also of the rapid increase of taxation for the support of the insane, so long as such a policy is pursued.

In the list of discharges eight males and two females are recorded as "not insane;" five of these are drunkards, one was a case of eccentricity, with strong mischievous and vicious propensities; two were cases in which insanity had been successfully pleaded in defence against criminal charges, and two were imbeciles.

The general health of the institution has been good, and no epidemics of any kind have prevailed. During the latter part of the summer and in the fall, several cases of typhoid fever occurred, both among patients and attendants; from all diseases having their origin in local atmospheric impurities we have been entirely free.

The number of deaths reported is again very small, only eight females and twenty-four males having died during the year. The rate of mortality, it will be observed from the following table, is 4.59 per cent. on the whole number treated, and 6.88 per cent. on the daily average population of the house.

TABLE

*Showing the percentage of deaths on the whole number treated, and on the average population, for fourteen years.*

YEAR.	Deaths.	Whole No. treated.	Percentage.	Average population.	Percentage.
1843 .....	7	267	2.53	109	6.44
1844 .....	16	471	3.39	236	6.78
1845 .....	21	553	3.79	265	7.92
1846 .....	22	622	3.53	283	7.77
1847 .....	48	802	5.98	415	11.56
1848 .....	86	877	9.80	474	18.14
1849 .....	69	857	8.05	454	15.19
1850 .....	51	816	6.25	433	11.77
1851 .....	48	795	6.03	440	10.91
1852 .....	39	825	4.72	441	8.84
1853 .....	39	849	4.59	423	9.22
1854 .....	65	836	7.75	444	14.63
1855 .....	32	725	4.41	467	6.85
1856 .....	30	697	4.30	454	6.61
1857 .....	32	696	4.59	463	6.88

In the female department there were three deaths from phthisis pulmonalis; two in cases of dementia, long resident in the institution, and one in the person of a lady, insane for many years, who was brought to us in the last stages of disease. There were three deaths from exhaustion from mental disease, each occurring in cases of acute mania; one, a lady, eighty years old, who died in the sixteenth day after admission; the second died in the eleventh week, and the third in the fourth month of their residence here. One death occurred from apoplexy, in a case of melancholia, which had been under treatment several years. A lady laboring under chronic mania was taken ill with typhoid fever, about five months after admission, and died during the fourth week of the attack.

Of the male patients five died from phthisis pulmonalis. Of these, four were cases of dementia, of long standing, and in the

fifth, insanity had been developed in the progress of the tubercular disease. There were nine deaths by exhaustion from mental disease. Of these two were cases of acute mania superinduced, in one by a week of almost unintermitted mental and bodily effort at a camp meeting, followed by active blood-letting purgation and blistering; in the other by an excessive and prolonged debauch. Three were of chronic mania; three were of dementia, many years under treatment, and one of paroxysmal mania in a person seventy years of age. Apoplexy, induced by a degeneration of the blood vessels of the brain, was the cause of death in one case of chronic dementia. There were three deaths from general paralysis, in each of which the disease brought to its close a life of long continued intemperance and debauchery. Four deaths occurred from epilepsy, in all of which cases the insanity accompanying this disease was of several years standing. The death by suffocation was in the case of a man sixty-five years of age, and very feeble from a prolonged attack of mania. In taking his food voraciously, a piece of meat lodged in the pharynx, and death took place before assistance could be rendered. The death from phlebitis was in the case of an old man many years insane, and long bed-ridden, with metastatic abscesses after pleuritic effusion.

The table upon the following page exhibits the cause of death, and the accompanying form of mental disease, in each case terminating fatally during the year.

TABLE.

FORM OF MENTAL DISEASE.	CAUSE OF DEATH.																	
	Pththisis pulmonalis.		Exhaustion from mental disease.		Apoplexy.		General paralysis.		Epilepsy.		Suffocation.		Phlebitis and met. abscesses.		Typhoid fever.		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Acute mania,.....	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	3
Sub-acute mania,.....	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
Chronic mania,.....	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	7	2
Melancholia,.....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dementia,.....	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
General paralysis,.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
	5	3	9	3	1	1	3	..	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	24	8

In 1846, three years after the opening of the asylum, the Legislature passed a law authorizing the transfer to its care, of such convicts as were then, and might subsequently become insane. This step was not then in conformity with the views of the officers of the institution, but was nevertheless taken. However, convinced by accumulated experience and observation, of the impropriety of associating the criminal classes with the inmates of a general asylum, the Legislature of 1854 repealed the law, and passed an act directing the erection of a building at one of the prisons for the treatment and care of insane convicts, and providing for the removal of those in this institution.

During the session of 1857 an appropriation of \$20,000 was made for the purpose of carrying the law into effect. A lot adjoining the prison at Auburn was chosen, a plan selected, and the work commenced last spring, and the building is now far advanced towards completion. As it is designed as a State institution and not as a mere appendage to the prison, it is to be hoped that under proper organization and judicious direction, it will be a credit to the State and fully illustrate the wisdom of the policy directing its establishment; and we further hope it is a step in the direction of an entire separation of the various criminal classes from the ordinary insane.

During the period of eight years, from 1846 to 1854, sixty-seven convicts were transferred to the asylum; of which number the following synopsis will give the history and results.

The form of mental disease was as follows :

Acute mania,.....	1
Chronic mania, .....	5
Periodic mania,.....	1
Paroxysmal mania,.....	1
Melancholia, .....	1
Dementia, .....	41
General paralysis,.....	2
Imbecility,.....	1
Feigned insanity, .....	14
Total, .....	67

Of these, sixty-four were males and three were females. Of the whole number but five recovered, viz : The case of melancholia, that of periodic mania, and three of the cases of dementia. Six of the cases of dementia were complicated with epilepsy dating anterior to the commission of the crimes for which they were sent to prison.

Fourteen of the whole number died, viz : The case of acute mania, that of paroxysmal mania, the two of general paralysis, and nine cases of dementia.

Thirty-two of the number have been returned to prison, or have effected their escape. Seven of those feigning disease to avoid punishment, were notorious house-breakers, and made their escape a few days after reception. There are remaining now in the institution eighteen convicts.

The crimes committed by the sixty-seven persons, and for which they were sent to prison, are as follows :

Murder, .....	1
Manslaughter, .....	3
Arson, .....	3
Rape, .....	7
Assault and battery, .....	4
Stabbing, .....	1
Mayhem, .....	1
Mutiny, .....	1
Robbery, .....	2
Forgery, .....	2
Counterfeiting, .....	1
Perjury, .....	1
Burglary, .....	16
Grand larceny, .....	24
Total, .....	<hr/> 67

Of the fourteen cases of feigned insanity, one had been convicted of stabbing, five of burglary, and eight of grand larceny, and all had long sentences to prison. Three of the number feigned mania, and the remaining eleven dementia.

It is a significant fact that for the period of eight years but one case of acute mania was sent from our State prisons. These statistics show that the form of mental disease most likely to occur among this class, is dementia. We have here forty-one cases of this form in fifty-three cases of insanity! Their individual history shows further that in nearly all, the process of sinking into dementia was gradual and not the sequence of neglected or violent mania ; a fact confirmed by my personal visits to the prisons, and information given me by their officers. Few convicts become insane from the operation of moral causes.

During the past fifteen years eighty-six “ criminal and dangerous lunatics” have been sent to the asylum on orders of judges and justices.

The form of mental disease in these cases is as follows :

Acute mania,.....	12
Sub-acute mania,.....	3
Chronic mania,.....	14
Periodic mania,.....	3
Paroxysmal mania,.....	4
Puerperal mania,.....	1
Dementia,.....	26
Mania with epilepsy,.....	2
Dementia with epilepsy,.....	2
General paralysis,.....	1
Feigned insanity,.....	12
Not insane,.....	2
Imbeciles,.....	4
Total,.....	<u>86</u>

Among the crimes recorded as committed are twenty-two murders and fourteen arsons; of the former ten were committed by persons laboring under dementia, two by demented epileptics, two had acute mania, one sub-acute mania, four chronic mania, one was an imbecile, and two feigned insanity as a means of escape. Nineteen were males and three females.

Of the fourteen acts of incendiarism four were by persons laboring under dementia, two by epileptics, one by an imbecile, two by cases of acute, two of chronic, and one of puerperal mania and two by persons not insane. Eleven of these were males and three females.

The results of treatment in the sixty-eight cases, omitting eighteen not insane, are as follows :

Discharged, recovered,.....	21
do improved,.....	4
do unimproved,.....	7
Died,.....	10
Remaining November 30th, 1857,.....	26
Total,.....	<hr/> 68

The eighteen cases committed to the institution on criminal orders, and found not to be insane, were charged with the following crimes :

Murder,.....	3
Attempt at rape,.....	1
Assault with intent to kill,.....	1
Forgery,.....	3
Incendiarism,.....	3
Grand larceny,.....	6
Bigamy,.....	1
Total,.....	<hr/> 18 <hr/>

Of the twelve feigning insanity ten simulated dementia, and two mania. The two cases reported as not insane were sent by courts without an examination. In the one case the reckless and vicious habits of the offender were construed into insanity; and in the other the degradation and stupidity consequent upon ignorance and a life of drunkenness, were mistaken for dementia.

The late fire, of which I suppose the managers will give an account in their report to the Legislature, admonishes us of the importance of being thoroughly provided against such a catastrophe by all the means necessary to its prompt suppression.

The reconstruction of the tanks destroyed by the fire, and the completion of those in process of building at that time will furnish the most ample attic tankage; giving the center attic 20,000 gallons, the two front wing attics each 25,000, the rear wings each 15,000, and the rear cross wing 12,000, in all a capacity of 112,000 gallons. The ground tankage is sufficient for but 50,000 gallons; it should provide for at least 200,000.

A new wheel and pumps are required at the canal, as those in use are about worn out.

With this quantity of water on hand, and a sufficient amount of hose to reach any part of the building, and a suitable pump to be driven by steam, the supply of water and the facilities for its use would be complete, and sufficient for any emergency.

The steam piping in the brick chambers, if properly arranged, our experience proves can be used for the extinguishment of fire in the wards, with wonderful effect; simply by disconnecting the coils from the mains, the latter pour their stream directly into the chambers, whence it passes up the air flues into the wards, filling them in a few moments. In addition to our present arrangements and those suggested above, we are now engaged in carrying up from each chamber a pipe, one and a quarter inches in diameter, directly from the main in the basement to the attics. This arrangement will enable the engineer, at a moment's warning, by means of a valve in the chamber, to throw a volume of steam from any one or all of twelve upright pipes, into the attic.

In former reports we have referred at some length to the important sanitary influence of the apparatus for warming and ventilating the institution, which has now been in operation nearly five years. By means of the fan introduced into the female department in 1853, we are enabled to insure to that division a large and continuous supply of fresh air, over the quantity and temperature of which we have perfect control. During the past year this fan has been in constant motion, night and day, and the manifest improvement in the health of the patients in that department, and the continued and uniform decrease in the

rate of mortality, as compared with the male division, must be in some measure attributed to the effects of its operation.

The steam coils for warming the department, are all in their place, the inlet and outlet flues, the distributing chambers, and foul air ducts are constructed, and all that remains to be done to secure the same advantages in this division, is the erection of another fan. This contemplated improvement, it is earnestly hoped will be carried into effect some time during the coming year.

The experience of another year serves to confirm the opinion heretofore expressed, that the only apparatus adapted to the wants of an institution like this, is one which unites the operations of warming and ventilation, and which effects the expulsion of foul air, as rapidly as may be desired, and to the same extent and simultaneously with the admission of fresh air. The perfect, free, and equable distribution of fresh air, warm or cold, under any circumstances, and in all seasons, is absolutely essential to any large hospital, and we are convinced can be secured in no other way.

The confident expectations of its projectors in regard to the quiet and efficient working of a fan in carrying into such a pile of buildings, through such devious channels, and over such an extent of surface, so large a body of air, have been as fully realized as have been the advantages which were expected in reference to the health and comfort of the household. The wisdom of the Board of Managers in determining upon the introduction of our present system of warming and ventilation, and in carrying it into operation against many obstacles and under great difficulties, is shown not only by our own happy experience in its use, but also in the fact that it has since been adopted in several other institutions. Similar fans are now in operation in the asylums for insane at Raleigh, N. C., Nashville, Tenn., Worcester and Taunton, Mass., Providence, R. I., in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, in the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and St Luke's Hospital, in New-York city, in the U. S. Naval Hospital at Brooklyn, and five in the public

buildings in the city of Washington. Since the construction of the fan in our female department, (the first, as far as we are aware, used for the ventilation of an hospital,) Mr. Nason has entered still more fully into the study of the subject, and in the form of some of the later ones, thinks that he has made important improvements. Though the present fan is noiseless in its action, is run at a very moderate cost, and thoroughly ventilates the part of the building to which it is applied, still it would be well to ascertain whether the advantages claimed for the new form of fan, (several of which are now used in other asylums, and another nearly ready for operation in the new Hall of Representatives at Washington,) are really possessed by it.

Experience has shown that we require thirty thousand cubic feet of air per minute in the winter, and from forty to fifty thousand per minute the remainder of the year. As we know the quantity of air delivered at each revolution, and can register, by means of an instrument designed for the purpose, the number of revolutions, we are assured of the entire accuracy of our computations. This amount may seem large for the use of only about two hundred and sixty persons, but it is found to be no more than sufficient for the complete and constant renewal of the atmosphere requisite for their health and comfort. Indeed, during the warmer days and nights of summer, we have thought it advisable to increase even this quantity. In the operation of such a machine, the expense of a few thousand additional feet of air per minute is very trifling.

We have thus again introduced this subject, not only on account of its value to the public, but because of the too general ignorance of the value of pure air, both to the sick and the well, and of the ease with which it can be supplied to all buildings occupied by large numbers of persons. We trust that the day is not far distant when this system of ventilation will be introduced, not only into all hospitals wherein the sick are treated, but also into our public schools and seminaries, where the laws of health, above all other places, should be carefully regarded, but where they are almost universally set at defiance. It is sad, indeed, to see institutions erected for the education of chil-

dren, without any means for the supply of pure air, but in which persons of tender years are compelled to breathe and re-breathe, again and again, too highly rarified air, from furnaces, introduced through apertures, often of an area much less than that of the mouths to be supplied. It is not astonishing that, under such circumstances, school-days, instead of being a period of physical growth and mental development and joyousness of spirit, is one of toil, and of mental and physical lassitude, and it is not surprising that the unnatural and unnecessary headaches and nervousness of children should in after years develop not only general ill health, but insanity and its kindred nervous diseases. I was once asked by one of the State Superintendents of public instruction how this fact was to be accounted for. "Many boys and girls," said he, "enter the school at twelve or fourteen, and are full of promise, but in a year or two are found to be poor scholars, begin to indulge in bad temper and vicious habits, and before they get through are either broken down in health, or so miserably developed in intellect that they cannot become even intelligent tradesmen."

This is doubtless due in part to a system of education which imposes a multiplicity of studies, and a number of hours of study beyond the mental and physical capacity of the great majority of children, and which fails to recognize, or at least practically secure that recreation absolutely essential to a heathful growth of mind and body, but also in part to the depressing influence on the brain and nervous system, for many hours of each day, of an atmosphere poisonous by reason of the abstraction of its oxygen and the presence of carbonic acid gas.

#### STATISTICS.

*General statistics of the Asylum, from its opening, January 16th, 1843, to December 1st, 1857:*

Total number of admissions,.....	5,065
“ “ of discharges,.....	4,614
“ “ discharged recovered,.....	2,112
“ “ “ improved,.....	768
“ “ “ unimproved,.....	1,095

Total number died,.....	605
“ “ not insane,.....	34

The whole number of patients received from the opening of the institution to the date of the present report is five thousand and sixty-five, of whom 41.10 per cent. have been restored and 11.94 per cent. have died.

TABLE

*Showing the ages of those admitted, and of those discharged recovered, during the year ending Nov. 30th, 1857.*

AGE.	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED RECOVER'D.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
From 10 to 20,....	14	10	24	5	4	9
20 to 30,....	25	28	53	14	20	34
30 to 40,....	43	25	68	11	14	25
40 to 50,....	29	27	56	4	13	17
50 to 60,....	12	14	26	6	3	9
60 to 70,....	4	1	5	1	.....	1
70 to 80,....	1	1	2	.....	.....	...
80 to 90,....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
	129	106	235	41	54	95

Of the two hundred and thirty-five patients admitted during the year, seventy males and sixty-six females were married; fifty-seven men and thirty-one women were single; there were nine widows and two widowers.

Twenty-one had received an academic and one-hundred and fifty-six a good common school education. Thirty-nine could read and write, eight could read only, and eleven were entirely without education.

TABLE

*Showing the occupation of those admitted.*

Farmers,.....	43
Farm laborers,.....	16
Laborers,.....	10

School boys,.....	7
Shoemakers,.....	6
Physicians,.....	5
Clergymen,.....	2
Lawyers,.....	1
Merchants,.....	4
Housekeepers,.....	75
Housework,.....	14
Seamstresses,.....	7
School girls,.....	3
Glove sewer,.....	1
Police officers,.....	2
Flax dresser, ..	1
Whip maker,.....	1
Locksmith,.....	1
Teachers,.....	6
Carpenters,.....	2
Clerk,.....	1
Blacksmith,.....	1
Gardeners,.....	2
Speculator,.....	1
Mason,.....	1
Lumberman,.....	1
Miner,.....	1
Pedlars,.....	3
Grocer,.....	1
Machinists,.....	3
Bar keeper,.....	1
Carriage makers,.....	2
Coopers,.....	2
Cabinet maker,.....	1
Boatmen,.....	2
Waiter,.....	1
Miller,.....	1
No occupation,.....	3
Total,.....	<hr/> 235 <hr/>

TABLE

*Showing the nativity of those admitted.*

New-York, .....	143
Ireland, .....	33
England, .....	13
Germany, .....	9
Connecticut, .....	9
Vermont, .....	7
Massachusetts, .....	5
New Hampshire, .....	3
Pennsylvania, .....	3
Canada, .....	2
Scotland, .....	1
Wales, .....	1
Rhode Island, .....	1
Maine, .....	1
Ohio, .....	1
Poland, .....	1
France, .....	1
Holland, .....	1

TABLE

*Showing the form of mental disease in those admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Acute mania, .....	38	41	79
Sub-acute mania, .....	6	7	13
Periodic mania, .....	12	2	14
Paroxysmal mania, .....	3	3	6
Chronic mania, .....	6	9	15
General paralysis, .....	9	..	9
Hysteromania, .....	2	..	2
Melancholia, .....	7	9	16
Hypochondriasis, .....	..	3	3
Dementia, .....	37	25	62
Acute dementia, .....	..	3	3

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Senile dementia, . . . . .	2	1	3
Dementia with chorea, . . . . .	1	..	1
Imbeciles, . . . . .	3	..	3
Drunkards, . . . . .	3	..	3
Mania â potu, . . . . .	1	..	1
Not insane, . . . . .	1	1	2

## TABLE

*Showing the probable cause of derangement in those admitted :*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Intemperance and vice, . . . . .	31	2	33
Vicious habits and indulgences, . . . . .	13	2	15
Popular errors, . . . . .	1	..	1
Puerperal, . . . . .	..	11	11
Domestic trouble, . . . . .	..	11	11
Grief and anxiety, . . . . .	2	6	8
Hereditary predisposition, . . . . .	8	7	15
Predisposition from previous attacks, . . . . .	6	1	7
Epilepsy, . . . . .	..	1	1
Business perplexities, . . . . .	3	..	3
Menstrual irregularities, . . . . .	..	2	2
Injury of head, . . . . .	2	..	2
Want and destitution, . . . . .	..	1	1
Disappointment in love, . . . . .	..	3	3
Loss of sleep, . . . . .	4	..	4
Uterine diseases, . . . . .	..	2	2
Ill health, . . . . .	13	9	22
Excessive labor and anxiety, . . . . .	18	3	21
Congenital imbeciles, . . . . .	1	..	1
Excessive labor and exposure, . . . . .	3	1	4
Prolonged lactation, . . . . .	..	1	1
Opium eating, . . . . .	..	1	1
Apoplexy, . . . . .	..	1	1
Bodily injuries, . . . . .	1	1	2
Disease of ear and brain, . . . . .	..	1	1
Want of occupation, . . . . .	..	1	1
Old age and infirmity, . . . . .	3	2	5
Nostalgia, . . . . .	1	1	2

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Change of life,.....	..	4	4
Malarial disease,.....	..	2	2
Fright, .....	..	1	1
Unascertained,.....	19	28	43
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	129	106	235
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE

*Showing the duration of insanity previous to admission, and the period under treatment in ninety-five cases discharged recovered:*

	Duration before insanity.			Under treatment.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Under three months,.....	25	42	67	17	8	25
“ six months,.....	7	7	14	7	12	19
“ twelve months,.....	6	3	9	13	11	24
“ one year less than three,.....	2	2	4	3	18	21
“ three y’rs less than five, ..	..	..	..	1	3	4
“ five years less than ten, 1	..	..	1	..	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41	54	95	41	54	95
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE

*Showing the form of mental disease in those discharged recovered :*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Acute mania,.....	18	24	42
Sub-acute mania,.....	..	7	7
Periodic mania,.....	6	..	6
Chronic mania,.....	1	..	1
Hysteromania,.....	..	2	2
Melancholia, .....	4	7	11
Dementia,.....	9	13	22
Acute dementia, .....	..	1	1
Mania a potu,.....	1	..	1
Paroxysmal mania,.....	2	..	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total, .....	41	54	95
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Table showing the number of patients admitted from each county during the year ending Nov. 30th, 1857, the number remaining at its close, and how supported:

COUNTIES.	HOW SENT.			REMAINING.		
	Public.	Private.	Total.	Public.	Private.	Total.
Albany,.....		3	3	16	5	21
Allegany,.....	2	1	3	2	1	3
Broome,.....	4	1	5	6	.....	6
Cattaraugus,.....	.....	1	1	4	1	5
Cayuga,.....	4	.....	4	16	2	18
Chautauque,.....	3	3	6	8	2	10
Chemung,.....	1	1	2	2	.....	2
Chenango,.....	5	1	6	8	3	11
Clinton,.....	2	.....	2	5	.....	5
Columbia,.....	2	1	3	3	2	5
Cortland,.....	1	2	3	2	.....	2
Delaware,.....	4	1	5	3	.....	3
Dutchess,.....	6	.....	6	12	.....	12
Erie,.....	2	3	5	3	5	8
Essex,.....	2	1	3	5	1	6
Franklin,.....	3	.....	3	3	.....	3
Fulton,.....	2	1	3	2	.....	2
Genesee,.....	1	2	3	2	3	5
Greene,.....	2	.....	2	5	.....	5
Herkimer,.....	7	3	10	8	4	12
Jefferson,.....	1	.....	1	3	1	4
Kings,.....	1	.....	1	1	.....	1
Lewis,.....	3	2	5	6	1	7
Livingston,.....	1	.....	1	3	.....	3
Madison,.....	2	2	4	7	4	11
Monroe,.....	1	2	3	8	3	11
Montgomery,.....	3	2	5	1	3	4
New-York,.....	1	.....	1	3	4	7
Niagara,.....	3	2	5	8	.....	8
Oneida,.....	16	15	31	34	15	49
Onondaga,.....	10	2	12	16	3	19
Ontario,.....	2	.....	2	4	4	8
Orange,.....	2	3	5	3	5	8
Orleans,.....	3	3	6	4	1	5
Oswego,.....	4	5	9	9	4	13
Otsego,.....	3	3	6	7	3	10
Queens,.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Rensselaer,.....	11	1	12	19	3	22
Richmond,.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Saratoga,.....	5	1	6	4	1	5
Schenectady,.....	3	2	5	6	2	8
Schoharie,.....	2	.....	2	6	.....	6
Schuyler,.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Seneca,.....	1	1	2	4	2	6
Steuben,.....	2	.....	2	8	.....	8
St. Lawrence,.....	1	2	3	4	2	6
Suffolk,.....	1	.....	1	6	.....	6
Sullivan,.....	2	.....	2	6	.....	6
Tioga,.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3
Ulster,.....	3	.....	3	9	.....	9
Warren,.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Washington,.....	4	2	6	3	2	5
Wayne,.....	6	2	8	8	3	11
Westchester,.....	3	.....	3	5	1	6
Wyoming,.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	1
Yates,.....	3	.....	3	5	.....	5
Auburn Prison,.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	5
Clinton Prison,.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Sing Sing Prison,.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	11
Other States,.....	.....	1	1	.....	2	2
Total,.....	156	79	235	352	99	451

In the female department the usual means of occupation have been furnished during the entire year. The matron's report of articles manufactured is as follows :

Sheets, .....	443
Pillow cases, .....	563
Curtains, .....	73
Cupboard spreads, .....	114
Towels,.....	950
Mattrass ticks,.....	166
Straw ticks, .....	236
Table cloths,.....	84
Shirts,.....	964
Drawers,.....	548
Wrappers, .....	676
Pairs socks, .....	180
Cravats, .....	473
Pocket handkerchiefs, .....	445
Aprons, .....	171
Dresses,.....	529
Chemises, .....	752
Night dresses,.....	529
Caps,.....	193
Skirts, .....	148
Pairs ladies hose,.....	145
Ladies sacques, .....	80
Bonnets trimmed, .....	42
Comfortables,.....	198

In addition to the above, a wide field for the exercise of the taste, ingenuity and industry of those so disposed, has been furnished in the preparation of useful and fancy articles for the "Ladies Annual Fair." The net proceeds of these fairs is generally about \$250, which amount is usually devoted to the purchase of music, musical instruments, engravings, paintings, &c., &c.

A large number of entertainments, theatrical and social concerts, lectures, and addresses have been given during the year.

The anniversary of the opening of the institution, and the national anniversaries were celebrated in the usual manner. All of these have been under the entire management of the patients themselves who in the necessary preparation have exhibited a great deal of ingenuity, taste and talent. Several very fine pieces of scenery have been painted by an artist recently returned to his friends, and to the same gentleman we are indebted for a new drop-scene for the stage, and a large number of portraits, and sketches for the decoration of the halls. The music for all our entertainments has, as usual, been furnished by the "Asylum Band."

From our printing office are regularly issued "The Opal" and the "American Journal of Insanity." The former a monthly of twenty-four pages, now at the close of its seventh volume, is entirely original and the production of the patients; the latter established and first edited by Dr. Brigham, now in its fourteenth year, is enjoying an increasing and liberal patronage. In exchange for these periodicals we are receiving nearly all the medical journals of America, France and England, and also the American and foreign quarterlies, constituting with the books received as gifts, and for notice, a large annual contribution to the libraries. The large number of newspapers and magazines received in exchange, furnish abundant reading matter for the entire household. The programmes for our entertainments and concerts, circulars, blanks, book labels, &c., are all printed in the institution. In the bindery attached to the printing office all of our exchanges and pamphlets are bound, and the successive issues of the Journal and Opal are stitched and prepared for mailing.

The various shops attached to the institution have been in successful and profitable operation during the entire year.

The farm and gardens have continued to furnish an abundance of very desirable and healthful occupation to large numbers of our patients. All out-door labor, however, has been greatly interrupted by the occurrence of the fire, and in the withdrawal of our available force in the removal of rubbish, drawing material for the builders and in assisting those who were engaged in

reconstructing the barn and center building. Nevertheless, much has been done in the improvement of lands not before brought under cultivation, in making new fences, in cleaning up a part of the grove and in laying down new drains. The "potatoe disease" destroyed three-fourths of our crop, and the season has by no means been a favorable one; still the annexed annual report of our steward compares very favorably with those of previous years :

*Farm and Garden Report.*

Hay, 50 tons, at \$10,.....	\$500 00
Corn stalks, 30 tons, at \$5,.....	150 00
Oats, 200 bushels, 37½c., .....	75 00
Potatoes, 513 bushels, at 75c.,.....	384 75
Green peas, 450 bushels, at 50c.,.....	225 00
Seed peas, 9 bushels, at \$2,.....	18 00
String beans, 150 bushels, at 50c.,.....	75 00
Dried beans, 150 bushels, at \$1.50,.....	225 00
Cranberry beans, 145 bushels, at \$1.50,.....	217 50
Lima beans, 400 bushels, at \$1.75,.....	700 00
Beets, 850 bushels, at 35c.,.....	297 50
Onions, 656 bushels, at 60c.,.....	393 60
Peppers, 18 bushels, at \$1.75,.....	31 50
Carrots, 800 bushels, at 30c.,.....	240 00
Parsnips, 516 bushels, at 30c.,.....	154 80
Turnips, 1,532 bushels, at 37½c.,.....	574 50
Salsify, 193 bushels, at \$1.25,.....	241 25
Cucumbers, (pickled,) 37 bbls., at \$2.75,.....	101 75
do (green,) 29 bushels, at \$1.00,.....	29 00
Spinach, 533 bushels, at 18c.,.....	95 94
Parsley, 386 bunches, at 18c., .....	69 48
Pepper grass, 127 bunches, at 12½c.,.....	15 88
Cauliflower, 814 heads, at 9c.,.....	73 26
Cabbage, 10,000 heads, at 4c.,.....	400 00
Celery, 7,000 heads, at 4c.,.....	280 00
Asparagus, 3,640 bunches, at 6c.,.....	218 40
Lettuce, 25,600 heads, at ½c.,.....	128 00
Rhubarb, (pie-plant,) 1,286 bunches, at 4c.,.....	51 44

Summer squash, 4,344, at 2c.,.....	\$86 88
Winter squash, 3,900, at 4c.,.....	156 00
Currants, 8,421 quarts, at 6c.,.....	505 26
Gooseberries, 104 quarts, at 8c.,.....	8 32
Strawberries, 1,143 quarts, at 15c.,.....	171 46
Raspberries, 778 quarts, at 10c.,.....	77 80
Sage, 86 lbs., at 25c.,.....	21 50
Tomatoes, 576 bushels, at 75c.,.....	432 00
Pears, 18 bushels, at \$3.00,.....	54 00
Pumpkins, 1,184, at 2c.,.....	23 68
Sweet corn, 434 bushels, at 40c.,.....	173 60
Plums, 30 bushels, \$3,.....	90 00
Apples, 45 bushels, at 75c.,.....	33 75
Cherries, 8 bushels, at \$3.50,.....	28 00
Watermelons, 150, at 10c.,.....	15 00
Muskmelons, 200, at 5c.,.....	10 00
Nasturtions, 35 q'ts, at 25c.,.....	8 75

---



---

\$7,862 54

---



---

The stock now on the farm consists of six horses, three yoke of oxen, twenty-one cows, two heifers, and one hundred and four hogs. The amount received for pigs sold and pork slaughtered during the year, for the use of the house is,...

\$1,057 58
Value of swine on hand, ..... 1,180 28

---

\$2,237 86

---

Value of swine on hand at the commencement of the year, ..... \$1,226 50
Amount paid for feed for same, ..... 408 63

---

1,635 13

---



---

\$602 73

---



---

All the circumstances connected with the disastrous fire to which I have alluded, its origin, progress and results are familiar to you, I must, however, be permitted to take this occasion to express my appreciation of the coolness, good judgment, and fidelity of the officers associated with me, and acknowledge

thus publicly, the share they have borne of the arduous duties and cares in conducting the institution through the past year; and, of the attendants' and assistants' good conduct, not only on that day, but subsequently, and to record to their praise, that none afterward left, but that all, though laboring under many embarrassments and difficulties have continued cheerfully to perform their accustomed duties.

To the women in the immediate neighborhood, who so promptly and carefully removed to places of safety the more delicate articles of furniture, china ware, &c., we are much indebted. In this way were preserved many valuable articles of public and private use which would otherwise have been destroyed, or at least greatly damaged. To the citizens generally who so promptly responded to the alarm, and especially to the firemen of Utica, York Mills, Herkimer, Little Falls and Rome, for their very efficient and vigorous action, and to the police and military companies, for their valuable services in defending and guarding the grounds, buildings, and exposed furniture, we cannot sufficiently express our thanks. We are also indebted to Major Priest of the New-York Central, and Carlos Dutton, Esq., of the Rome and Watertown Railroad, who so generously and promptly forwarded to our aid, the firemen of the neighboring villages.

While we record with feelings of profound gratitude, that none of our vast family were injured on the occasion, we can not but express our deep sorrow at the death, by falling timbers, of Dr. Lauren F. Rose and Mr. William Cessford. Dr. Rose was well known to us. He was a warm friend of the institution, and a highly respectable medical practitioner. Mr. Cessford was a member of one of the fire companies of the city. Both fell in the heroic discharge of duty. The latter was completely buried in the ruins of the falling roof, and when his remains were found, the charred hands still clutched the vessels with which he was laboring to control the fire.

Our chaplain, Rev. Chauncey E. Goodrich, has continued the usual religious services throughout the year, though with some embarrassment since July 14th. Services since that period have

been held alternately in the convalescent wards of the male and female departments. The want of a proper place of worship has been much felt, and assures us now by experience of the benefit of a chapel in such an institution.

We are indebted to Hon. Charles Mason, Hon. O. B. Matteson, Hon. E. A. Richardson, and Hon. R. U. Sherman, for books and public documents; to the Regents of the University for important State publications; to Mr. A. B. Johnson, of Utica, Mrs. Bradford, of Geneva, and Mr. Tinker, of Chautauque county, for books for the library; to Mr. William Pate, of New-York, for a valuable lot of engravings; to the newspaper and periodical press for a liberal continuation of favors; to Wm. C. Johnson, Esq., of Utica, for a pair of elk, and to Mr. John C. Hoyt, of Utica, for a pair of deer, and to Mrs. Averill, of Schenectady, for flowers for the green house.

To you gentlemen who have shared so largely in the trying responsibilities of the year, and sustained me in my duties by your free counsel and uniform personal kindness, I am greatly indebted.

In reviewing the past year we turn with deep gratitude to God, from whom we have had so many blessings, and who so mercifully preserved us all in time of danger, and kept us from greater evil, and earnestly implore his protection and guidance for the future.

JOHN P. GRAY.

STATE ASYLUM, }  
*November 30th, 1857.* }

## APPENDIX.

---

For the information of those who may desire to place their friends in this institution, we add the law regulating the admission of patients :

Reference to laws passed by the Legislature relative to insane persons.

Part 1, chap. 20, title 3, art 1 of the Revised Statutes, “ of the safe keeping and care of lunatics.”

Session Laws, 1842, chap. 135, “An act to organize the State Lunatic Asylum, and more effectually to provide for the care, maintenance and recovery of the insane.”

Session Laws, 1850, chap. 282, sec. 2, relating to sending indigent insane persons, not paupers, to the asylum.

Session Laws, 1851, chap. 446, amending the law respecting indigent insane persons.

“ The county superintendents of the poor of any county, and any overseers of the poor of any town to which any person shall be chargeable, who shall be or become a lunatic, may send such person to the lunatic asylum by an order under their hands.”

Under this law, an order of the superintendent of the poor for the county, or of the overseers of the poor of the town to which the patient is chargeable, and which pays the expense without recourse to the county, is all that is necessary for admission of any poor person. Where the order is made by the overseers of the poor of a town, it should be stated that the town alone is liable for the support of the patient, and not the county.

The order of a county judge secures the admission of indigent persons, not paupers, in which order it must be stated that the applicant became insane within one year prior to the date of the order. (Sec. 26 of act of 1842.)

The above law was changed by chap. 282, Session Laws, 1850, sec. 2 of which is as follows :

“ No person in indigent circumstances, not a pauper shall be admitted into the asylum on the certificate of a county judge, made under and pursuant to the provisions of the twenty-sixth section of the “ *Act to organize the State Lunatic Asylum, and more effectually to provide for the cure, maintenance and recovery of the insane,*” passed April 7th, 1842, unless such person has become insane within one year next prior to the granting of such certificate by the county judge; and it shall be the duty of said judge, when an application is made to him, pursuant to said twenty-sixth section of said act, to cause such reasonable notice thereof, and of the time and place of hearing the same, to be given to one of the superintendents of the poor of the county, chargeable with supporting such person in the asylum, if admitted, or if such expense is chargeable to a town, or city, then to an overseer of the poor of such town, or city, as he may judge reasonable under the circumstances, and he shall then proceed to inquire as to the time when such person became insane, and shall, in addition to the requirements of said twenty-sixth section, state in his certificate that satisfactory proof has been adduced before him, that such person became insane within a year next prior to the date of his certificate. On granting such certificate, the judge may, in his discretion, require the friends of the patient to give security to the superintendent of the poor of the county, to remove the patient from the asylum at the end of two years, in case he does not sooner recover. When a patient, who is admitted into the asylum on the certificate of the county judge, given pursuant to the twenty-sixth section of the aforesaid act, has remained in the asylum two years, and has not recovered, the superin'endent of the asylum shall send notice by mail to the overseer of the poor of the town where the patient resided at the time of his admission into the asylum, or to the county judge of the county from

which he was sent, that such patient has remained two years in the asylum and has not recovered, and that he should be removed from the asylum, and that in case he is not removed, the expense of his support will be chargeable to the county, until he is so removed, and then such expense shall be chargeable to the county accordingly; but in every case where a patient admitted into the asylum, pursuant to the provisions of the twenty-sixth section of said act, shall have remained there two years, and has not recovered, the managers of the asylum may, in their discretion, cause such patient to be returned to the county from which he came, and charge the expense of such removal to the county."

The object of this humane provision is undoubtedly to extend the benefits of this institution to persons with limited means, whose insanity is of a recent date, and therefore probably curable, and if recovered in the space of two years, restoring them to their families, and their property unimpaired, and saving them from the paralyzing influence upon their future life, of finding themselves by the loss of health and reason, reduced to beggary. Patients sent through this channel, generally supply their own clothing, and pay their traveling expenses to and from the asylum. If not recovered in two years, the law requires that they then be removed, and if their friends do not remove them, the superintendents of the poor may have the disposal of them, or they may be sent to the county from which they came.

"Whenever there are vacancies in the asylum, the managers may authorize the superintendent to admit, under special agreements, such recent cases as may seek admission under peculiarly afflictive circumstances, or which, in his opinion, promise speedy recovery."

Patients supported by their friends are received without any other papers than certificates from county or bank officers, or other prominent individuals, of the ability of those who become bound for their support in the asylum, to meet all expenses, incurred. The form of agreement entered into by the person or sureties who become bound for the patient admitted, is as follows:

Whereas, ——— of the town of ———, in the county of ———, an insane person, has been admitted as a patient into the New-York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica : Now, therefore, we, the undersigned, in consideration thereof, bind ourselves to Edmund A. Wetmore, treasurer of said asylum, to pay to him and his successors in office the sum of — dollars and — cents per week, for the care and board of said insane person so long as he shall continue in said asylum, with such extra charges as may be occasioned by his requiring more than ordinary care and attention, and also to provide him with suitable clothing, and pay for all such necessary articles of clothing as shall be procured for him by the steward of the asylum, and to remove him from the asylum whenever the room occupied by him shall be required for a class of patients having preference by law; or whenever he shall be required to be removed by the managers or superintendent; and we also engage to pay all expenses incurred by the managers or superintendent in sending said patient to his friends, in case one or either of us shall fail to remove said patient when required to do so as aforesaid; and if he shall be removed at the request of his friends before the expiration of six calendar months after reception, then we engage to pay board for twenty-six weeks, unless he should be sooner cured, and also to pay, not exceeding fifty dollars, for all damages he may do to the furniture or other property of said asylum, and for reasonable charges in case of elopement, and funeral charges in case of death; such payments for board and clothing to be made semi-annually, on the first day of February and August in each year, and at the time of removal, with interest on each bill, from and after the time it becomes due.

“In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our names this the — day of —, in the year 185—.”

This agreement or understanding is generally signed by near relatives or other friends of the patient, or legal guardians, if any such there be, at or prior to the time of admission or subsequently, upon the deposit, on the admission of the patient, of a sum of money sufficient to secure its execution.

The charges for board for this class of patients vary from three and a half to seven dollars per week, according to the circum-

stances of the case. Indigent persons, who pay their own expenses, are received at three dollars per week.

“When an insane person in indigent circumstances shall have been sent to the asylum by his friends, who have paid his bills therein for six months, if the superintendent shall certify that he is a fit patient, and likely to be benefited by remaining in the institution, the supervisors of the county of his residence are authorized and required upon an application under oath in his behalf, to raise a sum of money sufficient to defray the expenses of his remaining there another year, and to pay the same to the treasurer of the asylum. And they shall repeat the same for two succeeding years, upon like application and the production of a new certificate each year, of like import, from the superintendent.”

As all, or nearly all, insane persons are “fit” patients for a lunatic asylum, and as all such as are unable to take care of themselves would be “benefited” by being properly cared for in such an institution; therefore the law, doubtless, contemplates cases that are likely to result in, or approach at least to recovery, and only in such cases would we feel justified in making the certificate the law demands.

We regret to be obliged to call the attention of county officers to the following law, which is too frequently overlooked or disregarded:

“All town and county officers sending a patient to the asylum, shall, before sending him, see that he is in a state of perfect bodily cleanliness, and is comfortably clothed and provided with suitable changes of raiment, as prescribed in the by-laws.”

We request especially that patients brought to us from county houses be clean and free from vermin.

All patients require at least two suits of clothing and several changes of under garments. Most of the patients go out regularly, and consequently require clothing suited to the season. For males great coats and boots are required in winter, shoes will answer in the summer, slippers are worn in the house. Females also need ample clothing for riding or walking in the winter

The supply should be liberal when it can be afforded. All clothing is marked with the name of the patient to whom it belongs, and much pains are taken to have it kept in good order and repair.

The removal of a patient should not be attempted while laboring under severe bodily disease, as fevers, erysipelas, large and dangerous wounds or sores, consumption, &c.

In conveying a patient to the asylum, let it be done by force rather than by deception. Truth should not be compromised by planing a journey to Utica, or a visit to the asylum, and when there, suggesting the idea to the patient of staying, while their admission was already decided upon; nor should patients be induced to come and stay a few days to see how they like it, under the impression that they can leave at pleasure. Such treachery not only destroys confidence in friends, but also too often in us, by the seeming conspiracy to which we are supposed to be a party, than which there can scarcely be a greater barrier to improvement. The patient should be brought by an intelligent and intimate acquaintance, who will be able to give a minute history of the case, or a written account should be transmitted. In the latter should be stated the name, age, married or single, number of children, occupation, degree of education, profession of religion, habit, nativity, residence, predisposing and exciting causes; here give a minute history of the patient from youth up, temperament, peculiarities, disposition, &c.; also the cause supposed to have affected the patient immediately preceding the attack; state what relatives, near or remote, are or have been insane or peculiar; also what diseases the patient has suffered from: fits, skin diseases, dyspepsia, constipation, piles, ulcers, &c. Give the date of the attack, going back to the first noticeable disturbance no matter how slight; also the duration of the more marked and decided symptoms, the number of attacks (if this be not the first), and if ever before admitted, the number of admissions to this asylum, and how complete was the recovery in the intervals between the attacks; state fully the condition of the patient at the time of admission, whether suicidal or homicidal, whether he eats, sleeps, strikes, breaks, destroys, or is noisy, or inattentive to

personal cleanliness, and whatever else may occur to the friends likely to be useful to us.

It is desirable that application for admission be always made before the patient is brought to the asylum, in reply to which any desired information will be cheerfully furnished. All correspondence about or with patients should be post-paid and addressed to Dr. Gray, superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y.



*Report on the Construction of hospitals for the Insane, made by the Standing Committee of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, and unanimously adopted at its meeting in Philadelphia, May 21, 1851.*

I. Every hospital for the insane should be in the country, not within less than two miles of a large town, and easily accessible at all seasons.

II. No hospital for the insane, however limited its capacity, should have less than fifty acres of land devoted to gardens and pleasure grounds for its patients. At least one hundred acres should be possessed by every State hospital, or other institution, for two hundred patients, to which number these propositions apply, unless otherwise mentioned.

III. Means should be provided to raise ten thousand gallons of water daily to reservoirs that will supply the highest part of the building.

IV. No hospital for the insane should be built without the plan having been first submitted to some physician or physicians who have had charge of a similar establishment, or are practically acquainted with all the details of their arrangements, and received his or their full approbation.

V. The highest number that can, with propriety, be treated in one building is two hundred and fifty, while two hundred is a preferable maximum.

VI. All such buildings should be constructed of stone or brick, have slate or metalic roofs, and as far as possible be made secure from accidents by fire.

VII. Every hospital having provision for two hundred or more patients should have in it at least eight distinct wards for each sex, making sixteen classes in the entire establishment.

VIII. Each ward should have in it a parlor, a corridor, single lodging rooms for patients, an associated dormitory, communicating with a chamber for two attendants; two clothes rooms, a bath room, a water closet; a dining room, a dumb waiter, and a speaking tube, leading to the kitchen or other central part of the building.

IX. No apartments should ever be provided for the confinement of patients, or as their lodging, that are not entirely above ground.

X. No class of rooms should ever be constructed without some kind of window in each, communicating directly with the external atmosphere.

XI. No chamber for the use of a single patient should ever be less than eight feet by ten, nor should the ceiling of any story occupied by patients be less than twelve feet in height.

XII. The floors of patients' apartments should always be of wood.

XIII. The stairways should always be of iron, stone, or other indestructible material, ample in size and number, and easy of ascent, to afford convenient egress in case of accident from fire.

XIV. A large hospital should consist of a main central building with wings.

XV. The main central building should contain the offices, receiving rooms for company, and apartments entirely private, for the superintending physician and his family, in case that officer resides in the hospital building.

XVI. The wings should be so arranged that if rooms are placed on both sides of a corridor, the corridors should be furnished at both ends with movable glazed sashes for the free admission of both light and air.

XVII. The lighting should be by gas, on account of its convenience, cleanliness, safety and economy.

XVIII. The apartments for washing clothing, &c., should be detached from the hospital building.

XIX. The drainage should be under ground, and all the inlets to the sewers should be properly secured to prevent offensive emanations.

XX. All hospitals should be warmed by passing an abundance of pure fresh air from the external atmosphere, over pipes or plates containing steam under low pressure, or hot water, the temperature of which, at the boiler, does not exceed 212 degrees F., and placed in the basement or cellar of the building to be heated.

XXI. A complete system of forced ventilation, in connection with the heating, is indispensable to give purity to the air of a hospital for the insane, and no expense that is required to effect this object thoroughly, can be deemed either misplaced or injudicious.

XXII. The boilers for generating steam for warming the building should be in a detached structure, connected with which may be the engine for pumping water, driving the washing apparatus and other machinery.

XXIII. All water closets should, as far as possible, be made of indestructible materials, be simple in their arrangement, and have a strong downward ventilation connected with them.

XXIV. The floors of bath rooms, water closets and basement stories, should, as far as possible, be made of materials that will not absorb moisture.

XXV. The wards for the most of the excited class should be constructed with rooms on but one side of a corridor, not less than ten feet wide, the external windows of which should be large, and have pleasant views from them.

XXVI. Wherever practicable, the pleasure grounds of a hospital for the insane should be surrounded by a substantial wall, so placed as not to be unpleasantly visible from the building.









